

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of an active ACE-inhibiting drug in a fluid sample, said drug in its active state capable of modifying the activity level of an enzyme on a selected substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first fluid sample obtained from a patient that may or may not contain

any of said ACE-inhibiting drug, said first fluid sample being a serum or urine sample and including said enzyme;

adding a quantity of said selected substrate to said first fluid sample;

measuring the activity level of said enzyme on said selected substrate;

comparing said measured activity level with a standard activity level established by

testing serum or urine samples from a plurality of individuals other than the

patient that have a known quantity of active ACE-inhibiting drug present; and

determining the presence of said active ACE-inhibiting drug by said measured activity level.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, said standard activity level representing the activity level of said enzyme on a known quantity of said selected substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of

correlating said measured activity level with the concentration of said active ACE-inhibiting drug.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, said standard activity level representing the activity level of said enzyme on a known quantity of said selected substrate.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level decreasing when said active ACE-inhibiting drug is present.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level increasing as the level of active ACE-inhibiting drug in said sample decreases.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level decreasing as the level of said active ACE-inhibiting drug in said sample increases.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of active ACE-

inhibiting drugs present in a fluid sample, said ACE-inhibiting drugs in their active state being capable of modifying the activity level of a target enzyme on a selected substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first fluid sample obtained from a patient that may or may not contain any of said ACE-inhibiting drugs, said first fluid sample being a serum or urine sample;

adding a quantity of said selected substrate to said first fluid sample;

determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said selected substrate in said fluid sample at a first time to provide a base line activity level; and

comparing said base line activity level with a standard activity level established by testing serum or urine samples from a plurality of individuals other than the patient that have a known quantity of ACE-inhibiting drugs present to determine the concentration of said active ACE-inhibiting drugs in said first fluid sample.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including the step of determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said selected substrate in said fluid sample at a second time to provide a first activity level, said second time occurring after said first time.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further including the step of comparing said base line activity level with said first activity level.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including the steps of:  
providing a second fluid sample;  
adding a quantity of said selected substrate to said second fluid sample; and  
determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said selected substrate in said second fluid sample to provide a second activity level.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further including the step of comparing said first activity level with said second activity level.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, said first fluid sample comprising urine.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, said base line level of activity being representative of said target enzyme's activity when no ACE-inhibiting drugs are present.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The method of claim 12, said ACE-inhibiting drugs being selected from the group consisting of benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, quinapril, ramipril, and trandolapril and combinations thereof.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12, said determining step including the step of measuring the optical density of said fluid sample.

24. (Original) The method of claim 12, said activity levels being correlated with the optical density at 340 nm.

25-51. (Canceled)